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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

MI



FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 04 072 50879]

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: OCT 09 2010

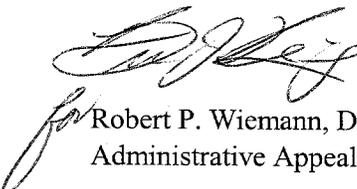
IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

APPLICATION: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.


for Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador who is seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish he was eligible for late registration. The director also denied the application because the applicant failed to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods.

As stated in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, "register" means "to properly file, with the director, a completed application, with proper fee, for Temporary Protected Status during the registration period designated under section 244(b) of the Act."

The record reveals that the applicant filed his initial application [EAC 02 160 50477] with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on April 17, 2002. That application was denied on June 17, 2003, due to abandonment because the applicant failed to respond a request for additional evidence. The applicant did not file a motion to reopen this application during the requisite timeframe.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on January 5, 2004. The director denied this application [EAC 04 072 50879] on July 26, 2004, because it was filed outside of the initial registration period and because the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for filing under the provisions of late registration. The director also denied the application because the applicant failed to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods.

Since the applicant did properly file an application during the initial registration period, the director erred in his explanation of the basis for denial. While the director found the applicant ineligible for TPS because he had failed to establish eligibility for late registration, the director's decision did not sufficiently explain the entire basis for denial.

The applicant's initial Form I-821 was properly filed on April 17, 2002. That initial application was denied by the director on June 17, 2003. Any Form I-821 application subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision rendered, must be considered as either a request for annual registration or as a new filing for TPS benefits.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821 on January 5, 2004. Since the initial application was denied on June 17, 2003, the subsequent application cannot be considered as a re-registration. Therefore, this application can only be considered as a late registration.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant is eligible for TPS only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) Is a national, as defined in section 101(a)(21) of the Act, of a foreign state designated under section 244(b) of the Act;
- (b) Has been continuously physically present in the United States since the effective date of the most recent designation of that foreign state;
- (c) Has continuously resided in the United States since such date as the Attorney General may designate;
- (d) Is admissible as an immigrant except as provided under § 244.3;
- (e) Is not ineligible under § 244.4; and
- (f)
 - (1) Registers for Temporary Protected Status during the initial registration period announced by public notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, or
 - (2) During any subsequent extension of such designation if at the time of the initial registration period:
 - (i) The applicant is a nonimmigrant or has been granted voluntary departure status or any relief from removal;
 - (ii) The applicant has an application for change of status, adjustment of status, asylum, voluntary departure, or any relief from removal which is pending or subject to further review or appeal;
 - (iii) The applicant is a parolee or has a pending request for reparole; or
 - (iv) The applicant is a spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant.
- (g) Has filed an application for late registration with the appropriate Service director, within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of conditions described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

The phrase *continuously physically present*, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have

failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States by virtue of brief, casual, and innocent absences as defined within this section.

The phrase *continuously resided*, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous residence in the United States by reason of a brief, casual and innocent absence as defined within this section or due merely to a brief temporary trip abroad required by emergency or extenuating circumstances outside the control of the alien.

The phrase *brief, casual, and innocent absence*, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;
- (2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and
- (3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he or she meets the above requirements. Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by CIS. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a). The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. To meet his or her burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his or her own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

On April 5, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). In addition, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001, to the date of filing his application. In response, the applicant submitted some evidence in an attempt to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States; however, he did not submit any evidence to establish his eligibility for late registration. The director denied the application on July 26, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he meets all the qualification for TPS eligibility. He also states that he is a national of El Salvador and he has lived in the United States since his arrival in December 2000. The applicant did not provide any additional evidence along with his appeal in support of his eligibility for TPS.

The first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed the instant application after the initial registration period had closed. The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he was either in a valid immigration status, had an application pending for relief from removal, was a parolee, or was the spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant, and he had filed an application for late registration within 60 days of the expiration or termination of the conditions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). A review of the record of proceedings reflects that the applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS late registration will be affirmed.

The second issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established his continuous residence and his continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods.

The record of proceedings reflects that the applicant has submitted along with his initial TPS application a single affidavit dated April 4, 2002, from Mr. Ricardo Ortega, in support of the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the entire requisite time periods. In this affidavit, Mr. [REDACTED] stated that the applicant had resided at [REDACTED] Washington, D.C. since March 2000. However, the statements provided by Mr. [REDACTED] regarding the applicant's claimed residence in the United States are not supported by any corroborative evidence. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of contemporaneous evidence to support these assertions; however, no corroborative evidence has been provided to cover the requisite time periods for Salvadoran TPS. Affidavits from acquaintances are not, by themselves, persuasive evidence of continuous residence or continuous physical presence.

Further, the applicant claims to have lived in the United States since December 22, 2000. It is also reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of documentary evidence to support his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b). The applicant has not submitted sufficient credible evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. He has, therefore, failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2 (b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for these reasons will also be affirmed.

The application will be denied for the above stated reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial. An alien applying for TPS has the burden of proving that he or she meets the requirements enumerated above and is otherwise eligible under the provisions of section 244 of the Act. The applicant has failed to meet this burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.